IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) Method for generating an image signal for an image reproduction from:

at least one page element having data representative for at least one image portion of said image reproduction and

a layout signal having layout data for defining at least one position of said image portion in said image reproduction,

wherein said page element is segmented into a plurality of autonomic area tiles, each area tile having tile data representative for a region of said image portion, and wherein said tile data is stored in a memory means,

comprising:

retrieving from said memory means and merging said tile data according to said layout data for generating said image signal wherein said tile data is merged independent from neighboring, previously merged or overlapping tile data.

2. (original) Method according to claim 1 wherein a linear size of said region is smaller than or equal to half a linear size of said image portion.

3. (original) Method according to claim 1 wherein said page element includes offset data representative for the offset of the memory location of said area tile within said page element within the memory means.

4. (original) Method according to claim 1 wherein said tile data is stored in said memory means at contiguous memory locations.

5. (original) Method according to claim 1 further comprising dividing at least one autonomic area tile, into a plurality of image tiles, each image tile representing a sub-region of said region represented by said area tile.

6. (original) Method according to claim 5 wherein said page element includes offset data representative for the offset of the memory locations of data of said image tile within said area tile.

7. (original) Method according to claim 5 wherein a linear size of said sub-region is smaller than or equal to half the linear size of said region.

8. (original) Method according to claim 5 further comprising:
dividing an image tile into a plurality of image blocks, each image block having data representative for a sub-portion of said sub-region and said page element having data including reproduction parameters for said image blocks,
accessing retrieved tile data by accessing said image blocks in an order based upon information of said layout data.

9. (original) Method according to claim 8 wherein said page element includes offset data representative for the offset of the memory location of said image block data within said image tile.

10. (original) Method according to claim 8 wherein a linear size of said sub-portion of said sub-region is smaller than or equal to half the linear size of said sub-region.

11. (original) Method according to claim 1 further including decompressing said tile data.

12. (original) Method according to claim 1 wherein said page element contains complexity data representative for an amount of processing effort needed to process said tile data of said page element.

13. (currently amended) Image signal generating apparatus for an image reproduction comprising:

a memory for storing:

data of segmented page elements representative for at least one portion of said image reproduction and

layout data defining at least one position of at least one image portion in said image reproduction, and ~~a~~

a processing unit for:

retrieving and merging said data of said segmented page elements independent from previously or underlying merged page elements in accordance with said layout data, and

generating from said merged page elements said image signal for image reproduction.